DEMOCRATIC

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"PATH PREPARED FOR UNITY" — Soviet Leader

The decisions of the Geneva Conference of the Big Four have prepared the path for the representatives of both halves of Germany to take part in the negotiations for German reunification, Soviet leader N. S. Khrustchov stated in Berlin on July 24th, one day after the end of the Geneva Conference.

Mr Khrustchov was speaking at a reception given for the leaders of the Soviet delegation, who broke their journey back to Moscow in Berlin, by the Government of the German Democratic Republic.

The Big Four at the Geneva Conference had decided that the Foreign Ministers should meet in Geneva this October to discuss European Security and the German Problem, among other subjects, and the directive addressed to the Foreign Ministers stressed that they take all measures which they considered necessary in connection with the invitation of other interested parties to this meeting.

Leading spokesmen in both East and West interpreted this as meaning that representatives of the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic would be invited to take part in the discussions.

(Important statements on the German problem, delivered at the Geneva Conference are given on the next page.)

WILL THEY NOW GET THEIR WEHRMACHT?

Two typical pictures taken at a rally of the militarist organisation "Stahlhelm" (Steel Helmet) in Goslar, West Germany, this summer.

BIG FOUR STATESMEN SPEAK ON GERMAN PROBLEM

On the last day of the Geneva Conference, July 23rd, Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Bulganin gave a clear analysis of the Soviet attitude towards the German problem. Here are the main points which he made:

"We have exchanged views on the German problem. This has shown our different approaches to this question. The delegations of the United States, Great Britain and France ... have proceeded from the assumption that West Germany which is to be rearmed in accordance with the Paris Agreements, and later united Germany, must be incorporated in the North Atlantic Pact and the West European military union.

"The Soviet Union, which has consistently supported the restoration of the national unity of Germany, drew attention to the fact, before the ratification of the Paris Agreements, that the coming into force of these agreements would make negotiations on the German problem difficult, and would remove the grounds for the discussion of the reunification of Germany.

"The Soviet Union proceeds from the assumption that the facts must be considered in the solution of the German problem. Ten years ago the war in Europe came to an end. In the intervening period two Germanys have grown up, the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic, each with its own economic and social system.

"In addition, the German Federal Republic has taken the path of remilitarisation on the basis of the Paris Agreements, and has been drawn into the military grouping of the western powers. And the German Democratic Republic has decided, in view of the conclusion of the Paris Agreements, to participate in the organisation of the Warsaw Agreement.

"It is clear that under such circumstances it is impossible to propose the mechanical combination of both parts of Germany ...

"The Soviet Union has been, and has remained, a stalwart supporter of the reunification of Germany as a peace-loving democratic state. We are deeply convinced that the German problem cannot be discussed without the participation of representatives of the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic.

"In the situation which has arisen in Europe, the only realistic way to the reunification of Germany is the joint efforts of the Four Powers and the German people, in order to bring about a relaxation of tension in Europe, and to create confidence between the states. This aim would be solved best by the creation of a system of collective security in Europe, in which both parts of Germany would participate on a basis of equality until reunification is achieved.

"Since this would lead to a strengthening of peace in Europe, and would prevent the rebirth of German militarism, the obstacles which at present block the path to reunification could be removed in the course of time.

"And on the other hand, from the standpoint of the internal conditions, a rapprochement between the two parts of Germany, the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic, would be of great importance for reunification."

* * *

Below we give some of the main points in connection with the German problem made by the Big Four at the beginning of the Geneva Conference.

U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower:

... There is the problem of unifying Germany and forming an all-German Government based on free elections. Ten years have passed since the German armistice, and Germany is still divided ...

In the interests of enduring peace, our solution should take account of the legitimate security interests of all concerned. That is why we insist a united Germany is invited at its choice to exercise its inherent right of collective self-defence. By the same token we are ready to take account of the legitimate security interests of the Soviet Union. The Paris Agreements contain many provisions which serve this purpose. But we are quite ready to consider further reciprocal safeguards which are reasonable and practical and compatible with the security of all concerned.

French Prime Minister Edgar Faure:

I think that so long as the German problem is not settled there can be no real harmonisation of international life.

The first question is: Should Germany by unified? Incontestably the answer is yes. There exists no valid argument, either political, economic, social or any other kind, which can justify the permanent division of a nation into two parts, and of a people into two fractions ...

The second question is: How to succeed in unification? I think the determination of the procedure is neither very serious nor very difficult. The Eden Plan in its main lines — elections, unified government, peace treaty — follows inevitable logic, without all its details necessarily being unchangeable.

I regard it as self-evident that if the four of us have the will to reunity Germany the question of the means will not be an obstacle.

The third question is: Does the reunification of Germany present a security problem? It is here that the real discussion lies. Using security arguments, the Soviet Union has turned down proposals made by the other three powers, and on security grounds the three powers have rejected a Soviet counter-proposal. ... The question therefore is that of knowing in what manner the reunification of Germany will change the problem of security as it now presents itself.

(Prime Minister Faure then gave his reasons for rejecting the neutralisation of a united Germany, and suggested that united Germany should join NATO, but that the

armed forces of this united Germany should be limited to the same figure as that laid down by the Paris Agreements. In addition various security guarantees should be given to the Soviet Union.)

British Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden:

At the Berlin Conference the west proposed the unification of Germany with free elections and the free right of Germany to chose her own foreign policy. Under the so-called Eden plan, Germany could have chosen either association with the West, or association with the East, or neutrality. But the Soviet Government was unable to accept that plan.

The reason why the Berlin conference failed was because one of the powers there believed that a united Germany, rearmed and exercising its choice to join the NATO alliance, would constitute an increased threat to its safety and security ...

(Prime Minister Eden then made various tentative proposals, which may be summarised as follows:

1. The Big Four and reunited Germany should join in a mutal defence pact.

2. Agreement on the armaments of Germany and her neighbours, with the necessary control arrangements.

3. The construction of a demilitarised area between East and West, possibly in Germany.)

Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai A. Bulganin:

...The Soviet Government is of the opinion that our eventual objective should be to have no foreign troops remaining on the territories of the European states.

The withdrawal of foreign troops from the territories of European states and the re-establishment in this respect of the situation which existed prior to the Second World War would in itself constitute a factor of great importance in consolidating peace, would radically improve the situation in Europe, and would removed one of the main sources of the present distrust in the relations between nations ...

Proposing the programme of disarmament and of establishing a system of European security, the Soviet Government proceeds on the premise that the easing of tension in international relations and the creation of an effective system of security in Europe would largely facilitate the settlement of the German problem, and would create the necessary prerequisites for the unification of Germany on a peaceful and democratic basis.

The Soviet Government, now as in the past, favours the unification of Germany in accordance with the national interests of the German people and of security in Europe.

The unification of Germany as a peace-loving and democratic state would be of paramount importance both for the peace of Europe and for the German nation itself, which has on more than one occasion suffered losses and devastation caused by war. It would open up before the German people vast opportunities to develop the peace economy and culture of their country, and to increase the prosperity of the population.

It must be realised that the remilitarisation of West Germany and her integration into military groupings of the western powers is the main obstacle at the present time to the unification of Germany.

It would be well to exchange views here bearing in mind the need to seek a solution of the German problem, even though in present circumstances we may fail to reach immediate agreement on the reunification of Germany. In that case the problem should be solved step by step ...

HITLER WENT: THE GENERALS REMAIN

West Germany's War Ministry, officially known as "Defence Ministry" is exclusively staffed at the top level by high-ranking officers of the nazi Wehrmacht.

This is clearly shown by a list of the leading men in the ministry, published in the West German news magazine "Spiegel" on July 6th 1955. We reprint the list below, with the original biographical details supplied by this West German magazine:

Chief of Military Department: Adolf Heusinger
1932: Captain, operations dept. 1938: Major in General Staff. 1945: Lieutenant General, Fuehrer Reserve.

Deputy Chief, Military Department: Hellmuth Laegeler
1932: First Lieutenant. 1938: Captain in organisation dept. of General Staff. 1945: Major General in organisation dept. of General Staff.

Chief of Staff: Kurt Fett
1932: Lieutenant. 1938: Captain, War Academy. 1945: Colonel in organisation dept. of Wehrmacht.

Chief of Personnel Department: Kurt Brandstaedter
1932: First Lieutenant. 1938: Captain in General Staff. 1945: Colonel, Chief of Staff of an Army Group.

Chief of Military-Political Department: Ulrich de Maiziere
1932: Ensign. 1938: First Lieutenant. 1945: Lieutenant Colonel, chief of operations department of army.

Chief of General Army Office: Wolf von Zawadzky
1932: Lieutenant. 1938: Captain in General Staff. 1945: Colonel in General Army Office of High Command.

Quartermaster General: Ernst Klasing
1932: First Lieutenant of Hamburg Police. 1938: Captain in General Staff. 1945: Quartermaster General of an army group.

Chief of Naval Department: Karl Adolf Zenker
1932: Naval Lieutenant. 1938: Senior Lieutenant. 1945: Commander in operations dept. of navy.

Chief of Air Department: Werner Panitzky
1932: Lieutenant of Prussian police. 1938: Captain, Air Academy. 1945: Lieutenant Colonel in Luftwaffe Command.

Chief of Army Department: Hellmut Bergengruen
1932: Lieutenant. 1938: Captain, War Academy. 1945: Colonel, Chief of Staff of a tank formation.

(It will be noted that every single one of these leading officials was a professional officer even before Hitler came to power in 1933, and that all of them, without exception, had fine careers in leading positions in Hitler's Wehrmacht.)

More Details about Nazis

More news about nazis and militarists in West Germany is given in the illustrated book "Conspiracy Against Europe", published in Berlin this spring by the Committee for German Unity.

We shall be glad to send a free copy to any reader interested. Requests should be sent to:

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COMMUNIST BAN TRIAL REACHES LAST PHASE

The hearings in the West German trial of the Communist Party (KPD) came to an end on July 15th, after 51 days of legal proceedings spread over nearly eight months.

The West German Constitutional Court, before which the case has been heard, will announce its verdict at a future date not yet announced.

On these pages we present a summary of the main phases of the trial of the KPD, together with short personal notes on some of the persons concerned in this trial.

The trial took the form of an application by the West German Government to the West German Constitutional Court for the KPD to be banned. This application, submitted on November 23rd 1951, was based upon article 21 of the West German Constitution, which staates:

"Parties which have the aim ... of limiting or removing the free-democratic basic order, or of endangering the existence of the Federal Republic, are unconstitutional.

On January 6th 1952 the KPD submitted to the West German Constitutional Court its counter-plea, showing cause why it should not be banned.

A few days later, on January 31st 1952, police raided KPD offices and the homes of leading KPD members throughout West Germany, and seized tons of files, newspapers, etc., which wnere later produced as evidence at the trial. It should be noted that this police raid was staged two months after the application for banning the party had been submitted to the Constitutional Court.

The trial itself opened in Karlsruhe on November 23rd 1954, exactly three years after the first application for the ban on the KPD had been submitted to the court. It had taken the government attorneys all this time to construct the case against the party. Details of the past histories of some of the judges and prosecuting attorneys in the trial are given in a box on the opposite page.

The trial itself can be summarised in the following phases:

1. Legal arguments on the bias of some of the judges, and the fact that some trial documents had not been made available to the KPD. (November 23rd to 26th 1954.)
2. Legal arguments as to whether the banning of the KPD would not itself be a breach of the West German Constitution (November 26th to December 16th 1954.)
3. Evidence on the philosophy of Marxism-Leninism. (February 16th to March 21st 1955.)
4. Evidence on the policy of the KPD. (March 22nd to 30th 1955.)
5. Concluding arguments of prosecution and defence. (May 31st—July 1955.)

And here, in fuller detail, are the most important, developments during these varying phases:

1. **Legal arguments on judges.** The reasons for the rejection of certain judges by the defence attorneys on the grounds of bias are shown clearly in the details of their biograpies given in the box on the opposite page. All such applications were turned down by the court.

2. **Legal arguments on the constitutional possibility of banning the KPD.** The trial proper commenced on November 26th 1954, when State Secretary Ritter von Lex opened the case for the West German Government to take the following action:

i. Declare the KPD to be unconstitutional.

ii. Dissolve the KPD.

iii. To ban all successor bodies.

iv. To confiscate all KPD property.

In the course of his opening speech, State Secretary Lex declared: "The application of the Federal Government is directed against the KPD, which body is bound by the theoretical basis of Communism ... My proof for this statement is the fundamental sentence in the statute of the KPD dated 1951, which reads: 'The KPD is guided in its entire policy by the theories of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin.' "

The defence attorneys immediately proceeded to submit arguments that the banning of the KPD would itself be a breach of the West German Constitution, and the next few weeks of the trial were concerned with legal arguments on this point. The defence submitted that the Potsdam Agreement (signed in August 1945 by Attlee, Stalin and Truman) was the foundation of all law in Germany today, and that the KPD fully supported the aims of the Potsdam Agreement — demilitarisation, denazification, destruction of monopolies, etc.

To counter this argument, the prosecution produced as a witness Professor Erich Kaufmann, expert on international law. (For biographical details on Professor Kaufmann, see box "Trial Personalities" on opposite page.)

Professor Kaufmann in his testimony on December 7th 1954, claimed that the Potsdam Agreement was "a breach of the rules of international law" and "an insulting intervention in the internal affairs of the German people". He stated that the principles of the Potsdam agreement "had never been regarded as binding on the German people and the German authorities".

3. **Evidence on the philosophy of Marxism-Leninism.** A main part of the trial was devoted to arguments and counter-arguments on the philosophy of Marxism-Leninism. The prosecution attempted to show that adherence to the teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin was automatically "unconstitutional" in West Germany today. The prosecution presented the court with hundreds of extracts from well-known Marxist textbooks, such as Lenin's "What is to be done", and Stalin's "Problems of Leninism". Other extraneous "incriminating" documents produced by the prosecution, none of which had any connection with the KPD, included the Statute of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Constitution of the Soviet Union, and the Statutes of the Communist International (which was, incidentally, dissolved six years before the formation of the West German state which it was presumed to have "menaced").

Defence attorneys requested that if the government case rested solely upon the allegedly unconstitutional nature of the Marxist tenets, and not on any overt acts on the part of the KPD, then the KPD must have the right to demand that the whole field of Marxism should be

presented to the court, and not individual sentences, most of them dealing with other countries and other conditions, torn from their context.

On March 8th, during this phase of the trial, trial judge Dr. Wintrich admitted, under defence pressure, that the names and addresses of all spectators ad the trial were being noted and handed over to the police. "This not being done to terrorise spectators" he said. Defence attorneys had previously protested against this practice, and stated that many persons who had attented the trial had been called to the police stations in their home towns and cross-examined on their reasons for going to Karlsruhe.

4. Evidence on the Policy of the KPD. The type of "evidence" presented by the West German Government during this phase of the trial can be judged by two passages from written evidence submitted to the court by the prosecution on February 12th 1955. This written evidence quoted many passages from Communist newspapers published in West Germany, which it alleged had been aimed at "undermining the democratic state". One of these passages, criticising the grant of a state pension to the widow of Heydrich, Nazi "Protector" of the Czechs during the Second World War stated:

> "The grant of this pension ... shows the sort of person that Adenauer is. Such a government, which allies itself with a fascist mass-murderer, must not be elected at the next general election." (Page 58 in West German Government written evidence, submitted on February 12th.)

Another passage in this written evidence cites a KPD pamphlet entitled "Workers, the Time Has Come" and states:

> "This pamphlet endeavours to make the workers dissatisfied, and recommends them to join the KPD and to force the unity and independence of Germany by establishing the unity of the working class." (Page 70 in West German Government written evidence.)

5. Concluding Arguments. On May 31st Defence Atorneys requested the court to quash the indictment, since the banning of the KPD would delay or make more difficult the reunification of Germany, laid down in the West German Constitution as one of the first aims of West German policy. The application was rejected by the court.

On June 4th, Defence Attorney Professor Kroeger requested the prosecution to produce evidence of overt unconstitutional acts on the part of the KPD if it could, instead of providing "merely subjective interpretations of theoretical documents". The court held that this was not necessary.

On June 22nd, after an adjournement, Prosecuting Attorney Dr. Karlbach produced new exhibits on the agitation and propaganda carried out by the KPD. He argued that this propaganda was "particularly dangerous" because it concentrated on the themes of the peaceful reunification of Germany, and united action by the working class.

On July 5th, the Prosecuting Attorney, in his summing up, called for the immediate banning of the KPD. The answer was given on July 14th by Fritz Rische, member of the Central Board of the KPD, who told the court:

"It is planned to ban the KPD because it has fought most consistently for an ending of the cold war between Germans, against remilitarisation and for understanding and unity. The planned prohibition of the KPD is something which concerns all Germans, and particularly all German workers.

"The events of 1933 must not be repeated. At that time Hitler wanted to drown with terrorism all resistance to his war preparations. For this reason he first banned the KPD. Then followed the banning of the Social Democratic Party and the trade unions, and then all others who did not want to be 'co-ordinated'. Now once again it is planned to make a ban on the KPD the signal for a general offensive against peace, democracy, freedom and law in West Germany.

"The Communists always occupied the first ranks in the struggle against imperialist war, militarism and fascism. The Hitlers came and went, but the Communists have remained. The Adenauers will come and go, but the Communists will remain."

TRIAL PERSONALITIES

Court President Dr. Josef Wintrich. Bavarian lawyer, who served throughout the nazi period as state prosecutor. In 1940, when he was proposed for promotion to the post of senior prosecutor, the Bavarian branch of the nazi party certified his "undoubtedly National Socialist attitude."

Judge Franz Wessel. During the war served as high ranking civil servant (Regierungsdirektor) in Cracow, occupied Poland.

Judge Theodor Ritterspach. During the entire nazi period served as high civil servant (Regierungsrat) in the Bavarian Ministry of Education and in the Ministry of Finance in Berlin.

Government Attorney Hans Ritter von Lex. In 1933, when member of right-wing Bavarian People's Party in Reichstag, he voted in favour of resolution giving Hitler plenary powers. During the entire Hitler period he served as high ranking civil servant in the nazi Ministry of the Interior. Today is State Secretary of the West German Ministry of the Interior.

Government Attorney Dr. Rudolf Dix. Practised as a lawyer throughout the nazi period. After Second World War defended many prominent war criminals, such as banker Hjalmar Schacht, IG Farben Director Christian Schneider and industrialist Friedrich Flick.

Government Expert Witness Professor Erich Kaufmann. Has acted as adviser on international law for the Kaiser's government, the nazi government, and the Adenauer government. His reputation is based upon his book "Das Wesen des Völkerrechts" (The Nature of International War) published in Tuebingen in 1911, in which he stated: "The social ideal is victorious war, since this discloses the real aim of the state . . . War is not a suspension of the rule of law, but the final proof of law in international jurisprudence . . . Treaties lose their force as soon as the state interested in cancelling a treaty has the strength to do so."

PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRY

By Walter Ulbricht, Deputy Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic

(The industry of the German Democratic Republic, now socialised in all its main branches, has fully made good all war damage, and production has long been raised well above pre-war levels. The managers and workers in industry are now faced with the task of making socialised industry more efficient and more productive than ever before.

Recently Walter Ulbricht, Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party, dealt with this problem in an important speech to the Central Committee of the Party in Berlin. On this page we give a summary of the suggestions which he made for the next steps to be taken in this field.)

1. The central administration must work more efficiently. Ministers, state secretaries and department heads must subject their own work to criticism and there must be full freedom of criticism from below. They should pay special attention to the following:

a. Introduction of new technical methods, improvement in the technology of production, increase in labour productivity, better use of available resources, strict discipline in work and strict adherence to plans in all factories, especially as regards variety, quality and reduction of production costs.

b. Study and application of all new German and foreign machinery and mechanical processes. Better machines must be developed and technical procedures and organisation of work improved.

c. Reduction of administrative personnel and costs to the minimum with which production can be organised efficiently.

2. In the various concerns, orders must be obtained well in advance, so that available industrial capacity can be used to the full. The present state of affairs, where in some factories out-of-date machines and instruments are still being produced, must come to an end. Detailed plans for the introduction of new technical methods must be worked out in all factories. More funds than hitherto must be allotted in the factories for the introduction of new machinery.

3. The various branches of industry must plan more accurately, through better administrative work, and through economic conferences and production meetings in the factories. In order to get production running more smoothly, the administration must take seriously criticism from technical personnel, workers and office employees, so that planning, supply of raw materials and organisation of work dovetail exactly. This means not only improvement in general administration, but also improvement in factory management. An analysis of the automobile industry revealed that our 54 factories in this field are organised according to 15 different systems. It is therefore necessary to make a thorough study of the working methods of the most efficient brigades and on this basis to work out overall working systems for medium and big factories.

4. Constant attention must be paid to serial production, mechanisation and automatisation by works managers, research institutes and administration. In the automobile industry 150 types of milled material of various qualities and about 800 types of varying dimensions are in use. Experts, however, confirm that about 20 quality types and 400 dimensional types would be adequate. In the Soviet Union and in capitalist countries there are automobile works which have reduced the number of types used to 12 or less.

Such measures would considerably reduce costs in materials in the automobile and tractor industry and would simplify production in our steel works.

Automation has begun in the motor industry, but this is not enough. It is not enough to solve isolated production problems through automation; whole production processes must be automatised. The German Democratic Republic lags behind in the field.

5. Labour productivity must be raised, the working day must be used to the full and machinery must be kept running. Parallel with an improvement in the organisation of nationally owned concerns, a more intensive propaganda for raising work morale and discipline must be carried out among the workers. Many workers and technical experts have heroic achievements to their credit, but the working morale of the entire working class must now be raised.

An analysis of the nationally owned Zeiss-Jena works for the first quarter of 1955 shows that expenditure to cover working hours lost, waiting time and sickness benefit exceeded the amount planned, so that running costs for this quarter were 6 million marks more than planned. This means in turn 6 million marks less for improvements in the industry, and a corresponding slow-up in improvements in the general standard of living.

The existing defects in the production process and an insufficiently developed socialist working discipline are reflected clearly in the sickness rate, which has risen instead of sinking, despite a considerable rise in living standard and general working conditions.

It will be necessary not only to get rid of existing defects which hinder smooth production, but also to pay more attention to working discipline in the factories. Social work must be attended to outside working hours, and expenditure for sickness benefits and accidents must be planned separately, in conjunction with planned social insurance expenditure. Adequate grounds for all transfers of funds for these purposes must be furnished by the factory management and government departments concerned.

6. Labour power must be better distributed. In some factories the plan cannot be fulfilled because of insufficient labour power, while in others there is a surplus labour power. In collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, each district should therefore set up a commission consisting of representatives of each ministry to study the question of labour productivity and distribution of labour power, and to present proposals for improvements to the Cabinet.

Even though we are at present faced with various difficulties in the provision of raw materials and food stuffs for the people, we have the means to solve all these problems.

"IT'S UP TO THE GERMANS"

Exclusive Interview With Dr. Otto John

The Big Four cannot really be expected to reach an agreement on the reunification of Germany when the Germans themselves in East and West cannot reach such an agreement, Dr. Otto John, former Chief of the West German Office for the Protection of the Constitution told GERMAN REPORT in an exclusive interview in Berlin.

Dr. John has been living and working in the German Democratic Republic since July 20th 1954, when he came here from West Germany as a protest against the active renazification and re-militarisation in the West German state.

"The greatest obstacle to the establishment of a reunited Germany is Adenauer's policy, and the stupid attitude of the Bonn Government, which consistently refuses even to recognise the existence of the German Democratic Republic", Dr. John said. "The Government of the German Democratic Republic has offered again and again to talk over the problem of reunification with the West, but the offers have always been refused. Such talks could be held between the cabinets of the two states, or between special delegations selected by the Bonn Parliament and the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic. The actual form is not so important, but such talks must take place. We Germans really cannot expect other people to patch up our family disputes.

"One might draw a comparison with a divorced couple which wishes to remarry. It can't all be arranged by outsiders — the man and the woman have to sit down together and make their own arrangements.

"There will be plenty of things to settle of course — different economic developments in the two halves of the country for instance — but given good will I see no reason to suppose that a new all-German Government, elected on the basis of free Germany-wide elections, could not settle these things."

It was impossible to forecast exactly the way things would develop, Dr. John stated, but it seemed clear to him that as long as Adenauer, and the western powers, clung to the Paris Agreements on the remilitarisation of West Germany there was no real chance of reunification.

Asked for his assessment of developments in West Germany, Dr. John said: "Remilitarisation and renazification have gone much further in the year since I left. They talk in Bonn about finding 'democratic generals' to lead the new Wehrmacht, but of course they do not want democrats: they want soldiers, and the only soldiers they find there are old nazis."

ADENAUER GETS ARMY

The West German Parliament on July 15th passed the first "Army Act" on the raising of the new West German Wehrmacht.

This act will legalise the position of the hundreds of nazi generals and senior officers who have already been in service for years drawing up complete plans for remilitarisation.

Under this act War Minister Theodor Blank is entitled to raise a cadre force of 26 generals, 275 colonels 680 lieutenant colonels, 966 majors, 970 captains and 400 lieutenants. These 3317 officers, all of them veterans of the nazi Wehrmacht, will for a start command a total of 3083 non-commissioned officers and men, according to official figures released in Bonn — less than one man per officer.

The West German Parliament has also established a special Selection Commission which will screen senior officers in the new Wehrmacht "to ensure that they are staunch supporters of democracy." 12 of the members so far named for this commission where high-ranking officers in the nazi Wehrmacht, and ten of the members are aristocrats.

... AND SPIES

The West German Government has taken over the big "Gehlen Organisation" the West German espionage organisation hitherto run and financed by the United States, it was announced in Bonn.

The Gehlen organisation, which has sent many hundreds of spies into tie German Democratic Republic, the People's Democracies, and also to various western European countries in the past few years, is headed by General Reinhold Gehlen, formerly chief of the espionage department "Enemy Armies in the East" on the nazi general staff.

"RESTITUTION" (WEST GERMAN STYLE)

"The former mayor of Osnabrueck, until 1945, Dr. Hans Widgassen, who was a close collaborator of nazi Gauleiter Florian, now receives a monthly pension of 950 marks (about 80 pounds sterling, ed.). Herr Bude, who until 1945 was acting Lord Mayor of Bielefeld, also district leader of the nazi party, received a back payment on his pension of 21,000 marks (nearly 2000 pounds sterling, ed.). The former Mayor of Dortmund, Storm Troop Obersturmbannführer Dr. Pagenkopf, received, as the result of a decision by the Dortmund Provincial Court, a back payment of 42,000 marks (nearly 4000 pounds sterling, ed.).

"A pensioner receiving his pension from the social services receives an average of 750 marks annually (nearly 70 pounds sterling, ed.)."

"Welt der Arbeit", Organ of the West German Trade Union Federation, July 22nd 1955.

TEN YEARS OF CULTURAL PROGRESS

Prime Minister Grotewohl Sums Up Advances

(In the ten years since the liberation of Germany from fascism, all forms of culture and art have blossomed in East Germany. On this page we give some facts about these ten years of progress, as outlined in a recent speech by Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic.)

"Our literature is blossoming anew" said Otto Grotewohl, "under the leadership of writers who had been forced to carry on the fight against fascism in exile during the Hitler era. The fact that Anna Seghers, Johannes R. Becher and Bertolt Brecht have been honoured with the Stalin Peace Prize indicates the international importance of our writers in the fight for a better world."

Speaking of the great work done by our publishing houses, the Prime Minister quoted figures illustrating the growth of the novel-reading public since 1945. The number of copies printed in 1954 was just under twelve and a half million, practically double the number printed in 1951.

"In the German Democratic Republic we publish no militarist books, and no books perpetuating enmity between races or peoples", he said. "We believe that people benefit from reading humanistic literature, classical and modern, but that comics and horror stories are dangerous. Our young people do not need to look for excitement in gangster literature from the West." Here he stressed the enormous increase in the number of books for young people. Nearly eleven and a half million copies were printed in 1954, five times the number printed in 1951.

The Prime Minister emphasised the importance of the public libraries, especially those in foctories and village libraries. He gave figures for the province of Mecklenburg, which used to be the most backward province in Germany. There were in the whole of Mecklenburg in 1945 82 town and 158 village libraries, whereas in 1953 there were 88 town and 1,542 village libraries. Between 1949 and 1952 the number of volumes in the village libraries rose from 30,000 to 216,000.

In 1954 there were 10,500 general public libraries in the Republic, with a total of nearly nine million volumes. There were 8,076 factory libraries containing four million volumes. Seven and a half million books are borrowed each year by over two and a half million readers from the public libraries.

Special stress is laid on the publication of scientific literature, and the Verlag Technik, publishing house for scientific literature, publishes many more scientific books than the biggest scientific publishing companies in West Germany. Large sums are set aside for the purchase and translation of books from the Soviet Union, the People's Democracies, West Germany and the capitalist countries. The import of books and journals increased nearly four times between 1950 and 1954.

Enormous changes have taken place in the field of music. The number of permanent paid orchestras in the German Democratic Republic is now equal to the total number in all Germany before the Second World War.

Much remains to be done to help musicians develop their talents, the Prime Minister added, but district orchestras now play an important part in bringing music regularly to country people and into the factories.

Damage done to cultural buildings in the big towns during the war is being repaired. In Berlin the National Gallery and several museums have been reopened and the famous Berlin State Opera on Unter den Linden will open again this autumn. In Weimar the fine old monuments and memorials to Goethe and Schiller have been restored, in Naumburg the Cathedral, and in Dresden the famous Zwinger and other monuments. The Semper Gallery in Dresden will again house the 750 paintings which are being returned this year from the Soviet Union.

By 1954, 35 war-damaged theatres had been rebuilt or repaired and many newly built. These theatres play to vastly increased audiences, too. The trade union people's theatre organisation plays an important part in this. The number of trade union theatre season ticket-holders rose from 300,000 in 1950 to over a million last year. Theatre companies visit country districts and there are regular theatre bus services which bring country people and factory groups to the town theatres.

Many good films have been produced by the DEFA film company, such as "The Murderers are amongst us", "The Council of the Gods", "The Condemned Village", "Ernst Thaelmann" and "Stronger than the the Night", which have also been shown in many foreign countries. Film audiences have also grown considerably, especially in country districts. There were in 1950 420 country circuits which supplied 6,850 cinema halls. Today there are 1,502 circuits supplying 10,000 cinemas.

Folk art receives special encouragement and is today more widely cultivated than ever before in Germany. There are 27,000 folk art groups in factories, on the land and in the People's Police units, the best known of which are the State Folk Art Ensemble and the Free German Trade Union Song and Dance Ensemble.

The German Academy of Arts founded in 1950, helps considerably in bringing culture to the working people through exhibitions and through maintaining contact between professional and amateur artists. Hundreds of contracts are made by composers, artists and writers direct with government departments, trade unions and nationally owned factories.

The position of intellectuals and cultural workers has also changed radically. About 20,000 intellectuals work under special personal contract, and about 100,000 are already drawing special retirement pensions ranging up to 90 per cent of their net incomes at the time of retirement. Intellectuals who have earned special recognition for scientific, literary or artistic work are eligible for special pensions.

Businessmen who read GERMAN REPORT will be interested to hear that a monthly export magazine in English is now appearing in Berlin.

Readers interested in this magazine should write for a trial copy direct to:

German Export
Franzoesische Strasse 53—55
Berlin W 8, Germany

Please do **not** write to GERMAN REPORT.

VISITING THE SORBS

By Paula Wiking

Away from home, with heavy heart
From my dear village I must part.
The grain's all eaten by the lord,
Away, away, from home away,
And nothing's left for peasant's board.
Away, away, from home away,
Far from my village must I stay.

The whole history of the Sorb people up to 1945 lies in this sad little folk-song.

A small Slav group scattered through the East German provinces of Saxony and Brandenburg, and numbering today about 200,000, they were oppressed and exploited for centuries by the Junkers, the great noblemen and feudal landlords of eastern Germany.

Even after serfdom was ended in 1852, they remained landless peasants with few rights; up to the end of the First World War, every Junker had the right to forbid the use of the Sorb language in public meetings, and the printing of Sorb books or newspapers. In the semi-liberal Weimar Republic which followed the war, there were still no schools teaching Sorb, while under the Nazis even the wearing of the national costume was forbidden, and no-one of Sorb extraction was allowed the benefits of higher education.

Like most visitors to the German Democratic Republic, we were still a little under the influence of Goebbel's propaganda, believing the German nation to be a homogeneous Teutonic mass, and were quite ignorant of the existence of this, the only national minority in East Germany. When friends in Berlin discovered this, they insisted that we should go to Bautzen, the medieval walled town near the Czech frontier. There, under the protection of a special law passed in 1948, guaranteeing the full and equal rights of the Sorb people, we could see the Sorb culture and way of life in full flower.

We must, they said, visit Jurij Brezan, the leading Sorb poet, novelist and publicist, who was soaked in the history and culture of his people, and could show us more of it than anyone else.

We drove down from Berlin in about three hours, having 'phoned beforehand at rather short notice, and found Brezan in his pleasant little villa on the outskirts of Bautzen, huddled over a stack of manuscript. His wife was away in Berlin for the day, and he was due to go to a meeting of other writers to discuss some of their cultural problems.

We found him at first a little disconcerting. He seemed unable to sit still for two minutes together. With the unexpectedness of a jack-in-the-box, he would jump up to offer us a cigarette. Then, in the middle of a sentence, he would dash out of the room without a word of explanation. After a lot of banging of cupboard doors and muttering in an adjoining room, he came back with glasses and a bottle under his arm, a small friendly dog romping in behind him. It seemed to us most un-German behaviour, though with his tall, spare figure, big blue eyes, long head and patrician nose, he could easily have passed for one of those "pure Nordic" types.

Brezan is completely bilingual, speaking German without an accent, and writing in both languages. Yet there is not a drop of German blood in his veins. Four generations ago, a maid-servant at the house of the Czar's Russian envoy in Dresden was seduced by her master and bore him a child. That child was Brezan's grandmother. She was of peasant stock on her mother's side. Her son worked in a quarry, and his daughters, Brezan's sisters, had all been maids up at the manor.

Without warning, he was on his feet again.

"Come along, let's have lunch", he said abruptly. And hustling us into his car, he drove at a terrifying speed to a restaurant on the central cobbled square, facing the lovely 12th century church that dominates the Bautzen sky-line.

Here he took us into a private room at the back where we sat down at the head of a long table. Not till a few minutes later, when a number of other people entered and joined us at the table, did the truth dawn on us. This, of course, was the meeting he had to attend.

These were the intellectual elite of the district—all of them writers in their spare time, otherwise an artist, an historian, a musician, the head of the Sorb section of the Ministry of Education, the head of the Central Institute of Folk Arts and Folklore, the editor-in-chief of the Sorb language newspaper, and several teachers of university and other grades. Brezan was the only full-time professional writer.

Food was ordered, and a very lively discussion went on all through the meal. The main problem under discussion was the vital need to produce more Sorb books to meet the ever-growing demand; how to get more time for authors to write and how to free teachers, for instance, from the pressing duty to give 50 to 60 hours of instruction a week.

Our host, criticising the all-too prevalent habit of making too many long-winded speeches—"instead of doing a job of useful work"—got so worked up that he forgot to eat, and was reminded that his soup was getting cold. With characteristic abruptness, he then stopped talking altogether, and applied himself to the task of clearing his plate.

It was a much livelier discussion than we had ever heard among Germans, who are sometimes a little heavy-footed, but there was the same intense absorption in every problem that arose.

After lunch, Brezan, who wanted us to see some villages in the neighbourhood, roared off with us again at top speed.

The biggest village, with a name like an enchanted castle out of a fairy-tale—Radibor—was once church property, and is a Catholic enclave in a 90 per cent Lutheran majority of the Sorb population. These Catholics have a strong bond of special customs and a national costume of their own.

The villages, outwardly sleepy and unpopulated, are really a busy meeting-place of old and new. Women on bicycles wore the traditional big black butterfly bow at the nape of the neck, with two long streamers of ribbon flying out behind as they pedalled. Others we saw scrubbing their doorsteps in working dress. Many of the old people, and even some of the younger ones, still believe in the old legend of the "house-dragon" — the "milk-dragon" that increases the yield of the cow, the "grain-dragon" that does likewise for the harvest, and the "money-dragon", which needs no explanation.

But the "dragon" you see in the fields is the tractor; the houses have electric light and running water, and science has been enlisted to help get the best results from live-stock and dairy-farm.

The basis for agricultural progress was laid in 1946, when the Domowina, or people's assembly, carried through the first land reform,

that of dispossessing their German landlords. The Church, with entrenched interests, opposed the reform on the ground that it was "theft" and "unchristian", and through its hold on the deeply religious peasants, was able to cause a good deal of obstruction.

But soon the counter-argument, coupled with the peasants' own clear interests, gained the day. It was not difficult for them to recognise that the real theft took place a thousand years ago, when the German marauding knights invaded and seized the land of their Sorb forefathers.

The grammar of the Sorb language, which has elements resembling both Polish and Czech, is far more involved than either, and has even more numerous inflections than the Russian. This suggests that they are a very ancient people, retaining their own language almost unaltered through having been left a small Slav island in a sea of Germans, cut off from other Slav peoples.

Their territory, known as the Lausitz, lies in the south-eastern corner of Germany, between Poland and Czechoslovakia, and was part of the great battlefield of the last war.

When the Soviet army beat back the Nazis here, attempts were made by the western powers to exploit the nationalist sentiments of the Sorb people. They were encouraged by dubious elements among the Polish London refugee government and the circles round the Benes Government in Prague to seek annexation to Czechoslovakia.

It took two more years of selfless cooperation between progressive Germans and Sorbs to convince the population that its interests would not be served by partition, with an illusory national indpendence, or by annexation to another country on a purely national basis. Since then the law of 1948 guaranteeing full equality for Sorbs as citizens of the German Democratic Republic has set the seal of mutual trust and friendship on relations between them and their German co-citizens.

For the first time there is a Sorb language newspaper, the Nowa Doba (New Times), and the publication of Sorb books is progressing, though this, as we heard at the discussion, still lags behind the enormous demand. Formidable difficulties have had to be overcome.

In 1945 there were only seven Sorb teachers in the whole Sorb area. Today there are 400. The original seven have all left teaching and now hold important posts in the administration and in cultural life.

We visited the handsome new training college in Radibor, which is Turning ont new teachers as fast as it can. Many of them are peasants and workers who have thrown themselves enthusiastically into this task.

Brezan's own career is typical. Forbidden to study under the Nazis, in and out of prison for writing nationalist poetry and working on behalf of his people, he had to spend about two years before the last war in exile in Poland and Czechoslovakia.

On returning to Germany in 1938 to do illegal work among his compatriots, he was discovered by the Gestapo, and again imprisoned till the war broke out. Released after the fall of Warsaw, he was kept under police restriction, in his own village till 1942. But with the increasing manpower needs of the Nazis, they became less choosy, put him in the army, and sent him to France with an infantry unit.

There he organised an illegal group in his unit, was caught and put in prison again. He escaped towards the end of the war, only to be captured by the Americans, in whose p. o. w. camps he was regularly beaten up by emigre White Russians.

Not till 1946 was he allowed to return to the home of his parents, where he at once became an avtive worker for the Sorb cause.

Since 1949, he has written thirteen books, and had three more published at the end of last year. It is a tempo of work we found not unusual in this country building up. a new life.

(This article, and the article by Paula & Wiking entitled "East German Law in Action" printed in GERMAN REPORT dated July 8th, were originally published in the "National Herlad" of Lucknow, India.)

FORCED TO BE NAZIS?

By Russ Nixon, Former Chief of Denazification of Financial Institutions, U.S. Military Government

The public dispute concerning the proper reception for former Nazi Party members Karajan and Westerman appearing as conductor and manager respectively of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra has raised anew the necessity to evaluate the ex-Nazi Party members' invariable assertion that "I was forced to join" and "I was only a 'formal' not an active Nazi member." Whatever conclusion one may reach about the propriety of the Karajan-Westerman appearance in our country, it certainly seems to me necessary to challenge this "forced Nazi member" concept which is contrary to all known facts concerning the actualities of membership in the German National Socialist Labor Party (NSDAP).

The fact is that there are no verified instances of any Germans being "forced" to join the Nazi Party. Actually, membership in the Nazi Party was a much-sought-after prize, so much so that Nazi leaders constantly were required to enforce long periods of prohibition on new membership and to maintain rigorous tests establishing clear Nazi loyalty as prerequisite to Party membership. Hitler and other Nazi leaders always viewed the Nazi Party as a qualitative and not a quantitative organization —not to exceed 10 per cent of the eligible Germans. The official Nazi party manual, "Organisationsbuch der NSDAP," quotes Hitler as stating that "only the best National Socialists shall be admitted to NSDAP." The principle of **voluntary** membership was constantly repeated and enforced by Nazi Party leaders, who viewed such membership as a privilege only to be enjoyed by the most devoted adherents of Hitler and Nazism.

The bandwagon rush of Germans to join the Nazi Party in the first months of Hitler's coming to power led to the closing of further membership in the Party as of May 1, 1933. This closed period (**Mitgliedersperre**) continued until May 1, 1937, when there was a slight relaxation (**Lockerung der Mitgliedersperre**) of the prohibition of new Nazi Party members. General membership was not reopened until 1939. Only a special group of Germans who during their years of waiting for membership had proven themselves to be active and devoted Nazis were allowed to enter the Party after 1937 and even after 1939. During the 1933-1937 "closed period" any individual exceptions to the membership prohibition had to be approved by Hitler or by Rudolph Hess.

The true meaning of Nazi Party membership is further indicated by facts such as the following: many hundreds of thousands of Germans made application for Nazi Party membership and were active for years in the organization of member-

ship applicants (**Parteianwärter**) as they tried to prove by acts their eligibility to the award of actual Nazi Party membership. At least one third of these applicants for party membership were ultimately rejected on grounds such as "lack of sufficient party enthusiasm" or "marriage to a Polish woman." Members of the Nazi Party who "lost their interest" or did anything contrary to the aims of the NSDAP were required to be expelled from membership; expulsion (the Nazi directives stated) was not to be the cause of loss of private employment for the expellee.

In the face of these facts, how can anyone accept the excuse for Nazi Party membership as having been forced? It is true that opportunism, the hope of special rewards and promotions, advantages in the assumption of positions and property formerly held by Jews and others victimized or not favored by the ruling Nazis were surely served by the attainment of Party membership. But this self-serving avowal and active support of the Nazi Party principles and program can hardly be passed off as "forced" merely because it brought rewards of wealth and status.

It was a common cynical joke in postwar Germany that there were "no Nazis in Germany." With the passage of the years, efforts to deny and conceal complicity in the Nazi movement increase. These efforts are not to confess and ask forgiveness, but to deny and assert "hidden opposition" rather than complicity. The fact is that there were millions of Germans who were active Nazi supporters, applicants for Party membership, members of Nazi formations and affiliates, etc. who never achieved the "reward" of actual Party membership. Thus, while non-membership in the Nazi Party cannot per se be taken to indicate lack of a German's support or sympathy for Nazism, **there is absolutely no basis to question the fact that actual Nazi Party membership is proof of active support and complicity in the Nazi Party.**

All of these facts concerning the true nature of Nazi Party membership are confirmed by records and documents of the German Nazi Party in U.S. Government possession since 1946.

Where does this leave Germans such as Karajan and Westerman who assert they were "forced" to join the Nazi Party in 1933 and 1935? The least one can say is that the public reception of these former Nazi members should be based on the actual facts about the true meaning of Nazi Party membership and not on any selfserving assertion on the "I was forced to join the Nazi Party" myth.

(From the U. S. "Saturday Review", March 26th 1955)

ODER-NEISSE LINE FINAL

At the beginning of July, a government delegation from the German Democratic Republic, headed by Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl, visited Warsaw, and a government delegation from the Polish People's Republic, headed by Boleslav Bierut, Chairman of the Polish National Front visited Berlin.

The exchange of visits marked the fifth anniversary of the final demarkation of the German-Polish frontier on the line of the Oder and Neisse rivers.

An official Polish-German statement emphasised that there was complete agreement between the two states that the Oder-Neisse frontier was final. The statement added: "Friendly relations between the two peoples are of eminent importance for peace and security in Europe, and the attitude towards the Oder-Neisse frontier which links the two peoples is a criterium for the attitude towards the cause of peace and security."

(The Oder-Neisse frontier was agreed to in the Potsdam Areement, signed on August 2nd 1945 by Attlee, Stalin and Truman. The Potsdam agreement stated: "The three heads of Government agree that... the former German territories east of a line running from the Baltic Sea immediately west of Swinemunde, and thence along the Oder River to the confluence of the western Neisse River and along the western Neisse to the Czechoslovak frontier... shall be under the administration of the Polish State...

"The three governments, having considered the question in all its aspects, recognise that the transfer to Germany of German populations, or elements thereof, remaining in Poland... will have to be undertaken."

The frontier thus roughly defined was finally demarcated on July 6th 1950 by an agreement signed between Poland and the German Democratic Republic.)

25 Fascist Youth Organisations in West Germany

At least 25 fascist or semi-fascist youth organisations are active in West Germany today, the West German Social Democratic newspaper "Neue Rhein Zeitung" reported on July 1st.

"One of the most important of these groups is the 'Viking Youth' which calls in its magazine for the revival of the Third Reich" the newspaper stated. "Members of this organisation wear a uniform of black-uniform jacket and black trousers."

The paper reported that a number of these neo-fascist groups had joined together this spring to form the "Association of Nationalist Youth Organisations".

33 Killed in Mine Fire

33 persons were killed in a mining catastrophe at Niederschlema in the southern part of the German Democratic Republic, it was officially announced in Berlin on July 21st. Eight of the fatal casualties were members of the rescue team, including a People's Policeman and a leading trade union official who entered the mine after the catastrophe, and helped to save 106 miners who had been cut off.

A special commission, headed by Fritz Selbmann, Minister for Heavy Industry and himself a miner by profession, was established to investigate the cause of the catastrophe and to take all necessary measures to help survivors and to improve safety precautions.

Industrial Production up 12 procent

Industrial production in the German Democratic Republic has risen 12% in the past year, according the official report on the fulfillment of the Five Year Plan for the second quarter of 1955, published in Berlin. In private industry the increase for the same period was slightly greater — 13%.

The plan report showed that there had been particularly large increases in the production of agricultural machinery, particularly reaper-threshers, and in consumer goods such as motor cycles and electrical household apparatus.

Compared to the second quarter of 1954 there has been an 11% increase in labour productivity. In the same period average wages have risen by 3%.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

On another page of this issue we print an interview with Dr. Otto John, former chief of the West German "Office for the Protection of the Constitution", who just one year ago caused a world-wide sensation when he came to East Germany.

Still Small Voice

It will be recalled that in August last year Dr. Otto John held an international press conference in East Berlin, at which he declared:

"There is a still small voice within us, to which we often do not listen. I followed this voice in the fight against National Socialism, and it is this voice which has led me here. I made up my mind after deep reflection to come to the German Democratic Republic and stay here because I see here the best chances to work for the reunification of Germany and against the threat of a new war . . . The Americans need the Germans for their war against the East. That is why the bloodthirstiest nazis and militarists are being groomed for office in the West German Republic."

In the past year, I have often seen Dr. John about in East Berlin and other places in the German Democratic Republic — at theatres, trade fairs, or just eating his lunch in the East Berlin Press Club — but I never had occasion to speak to him. Last week I decided that it would be interesting for GERMAN REPORT to interview him on the first anniversary of his "flight to the East".

Some readers, influenced by the millionaire press, may imagine that arranging such an interview would be a complicated affair of "getting permission" or "going through the proper channels".

Press Club

But it was nothing of the sort. While I was eating lunch with my wife in the restaurant of the East Berlin Press Club one day, I noticed Dr. John sitting by himself at the other end of the restaurant, reading a paper while he was waiting for the waiter to bring his lunch.

I went over, introduced myself, and asked him if he would mind giving an interview. He immediately agreed, and we made an appointment for the next day, since neither he nor I had much time just then.

By John Peet

So next day we met, in a public restaurant just across the road from the Friedrich Strasse railway station, in the heart of East Berlin. It was very hot, so we had the interview over brimming glasses of a drink peculiar to Berlin — white beer with raspberry juice, which sounds appaling, but is actually very refreshing.

I asked Dr. John, who was looking very fit and sun-tanned how he was getting on here in the German Democratic Republic, and what he was doing now.

"GERMAN REPORT" READER JAILED

"Johannesburg.—In the third conviction under the Customs Act for possession of banned literature, Lionel Morrison, a young Coloured student, has been sentenced to a line of 20 pounds, or three months imprisonment, half the sentence suspended for one year.

"He was found in possession of 'World Youth', the magazine of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, and 'Democratic German Report'.

"This case will be taken to appeal."

"New Age", Cape Town, July 14th 1955.

His main occupation at the moment, he told me, was working on a book to be entitled "Germany between Downfall and Sovereignty", which he hopes to have finished before the end of the year. A publisher in Britain had already expressed interest in the book, and he hoped that it would appear there as well as in the German Democratic Republic.

He has a little house on the Zeuthener See, a lake just outside Berlin, and when he is not working, either on the book or on his studies of the origin of the present East-West tension, he manages to get in quite a lot of swimming and rowing, which account for his fine tan.

Dr. John does not regret in any way the step which he took one year ago, he told me. Events since then had fully confirmed his prediction of a speed-up in the remilitarisation of West Germany. "If I was given a chance to live my life over again, I should act in precisely the same way" he said.

Dangerous Classics

In the last number of GERMAN REPORT we reported that books on Leonardo da Vinci and on Goethe had been cited as incriminating evidence in the trial in the West German High Court of officials of the German-Soviet Friendship Society.

Looking through the files of the trial of the West German Communist Party, reported fully on other pages of this issue, I found another fine example of what can appear "dangerous and subversive" to a flat-footed policeman, probably an old Gestapo man at that, in West Germany today. On February 12th this year the Government attorney in this trial, which is aimed at suppressing the Communist Party in West Germany, submitted to the court an enormously long list of alleged "seditious and unconstitutional utterances" made by West German Communists.

On page 44 of this compilation is a little four-line verse:

"Mann der Arbeit, aufgewacht
und erkenne deine Macht!
Alle Räder stehen still,
wenn dein starker Arm es will!"

Which may be roughly translated:

"Working men, awaken, realise your strength. Every wheel will cease to turn, if your strong arm stops it."

And this "seditous" verse was written more than one hundred years ago by Georg Herwegh, a German poet who died in 1875.

Footnote

Officers in the new West German Wehrmacht will be allowed to wear monocles, nazi colonel Fett, spokesman of the West German War Ministry announced in Bonn on July 22nd.

* * *

As a result of holiday arrangements, the next number of GERMAN REPORT will not appear until early in September. The double number which you are now reading went to press a little early in order to bring the news of the Geneva Conference without delay.

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